
BPS FACTS

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The Boston Public Schools at a Glance 2005-2006

SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

There are **145 schools** in the BPS:

- 6 early learning centers (K-grade 1)
- 67 elementary schools (K-5)
- 11 elementary & middle schools (K-8)
- 18 middle schools (6-8)
- 1 middle & high school (6-12)
- 30 high schools (9-12)
- 3 "exam" schools (7-12)
- 6 special education schools (K-12)
- 3 alternative (at-risk) programs

Of these, 17 are **pilot schools** (2 early learning centers, 4 K-8, 2 middle, 8 high); and 2 high schools are **Horace Mann** charter schools approved and funded by the BPS.

SY06 enrollment is 57,900 including:

- 5,590 students in kindergarten (K0-K2)
- 20,630 students in grades 1-5
- 12,770 students in grades 6-8
- 18,870 students in grades 9-12

Student demographics:

- 44% Black
- 33% Hispanic
- 14% White
- 9% Asian
- <1% American Indian
- 73% of BPS students are eligible to receive **free & reduced-price meals** in school (65% free, 8% reduced).

Students who don't attend the BPS¹:

Of the **79,130** (est.) school-age children living in Boston, about **21,130** (27%) do not attend Boston public schools. They are:

- 45% Black 11% Hispanic
- 41% White 3% Asian

Of these students:

- 12,930 go to private & parochial schools
- 3,130 go to suburban schools through METCO
- 4,390 go to public charter schools
- 560² are placed by the BPS Special Education Dept. in non-BPS schools and programs
- 120 are home schooled

¹BPS data, 4/05 ²470 in 3/06

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STAFF

The **2005-06** school budget (all funds) includes **8,814** staff positions (FTE), a decrease of 43 positions from FY05. Here is a comparison of budgeted positions:

FY06	FY05	
4,733	4,769	teachers
612	630	administrators
488	483	support personnel
1,063	1,050	aides and monitors
357	354	secretaries and clerical staff
1,109	1,124	custodial/safety/technical
451	448	part-time & summer staff

Demographics:	Teachers	Principals
Black	26%	43%
White	61%	38%
Hispanic	9%	16%
Asian	5%	4%
Male	27%	35%
Female	73%	65%

Source: BPS Budget; BPS Human Resources

LEADERSHIP

Superintendent
(since 10/95) Dr. Thomas W. Payzant
Deputy Superintendent for
Teaching & Learning Christopher Coxon
Deputy Superintendents
for Clusters & Schools Dr. Ingrid Carney,
Dr. Muriel Leonard, Dr. Janet Williams
Deputy Superintendent for Family &
Community Engagement...Karen Richardson
Chief Communications
Officer..... Christopher Horan
Chief Financial Officer John McDonough
Chief Information Officer Kimberly Rice
Chief Operating
Officer..... Michael Contompasis
Chief of StaffAnand Vaishnav

BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The BPS is governed by a seven-member **School Committee**, appointed by the Mayor from among nominees recommended by a broad-based Nominating Committee. Members serve four-year terms. Current members and term expiration dates are:

- Dr. Elizabeth Reilinger, *Chair* 1/2/10
- Marchelle Raynor, *Vice-chair* 1/7/08
- Dr. Angel Amy Moreno 1/7/08
- William Boyan 1/1/07
- Michele Brooks 1/5/09
- Helen Dájer 1/2/10
- Alfreda Harris 1/1/07

THE SIX ESSENTIALS

Focus on Children II is the BPS's 5-year school improvement plan that builds on the work of the previous 5-year plan. Its goal is to continue raising student achievement. It states that, from SY02-06, instruction will be organized around these **Six Essentials for Whole School Improvement**:

1. Use effective instructional practices and create a collaborative school climate to improve student learning
2. Examine student work and data to drive instruction and professional development
3. Invest in professional development to improve instruction
4. Share leadership to sustain instructional improvement
5. Focus resources to support improvement in instruction and in student learning
6. Partner with families and the community to support student learning.

CONTACTING THE BPS

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School Committee617-635-9014
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The appointed School Committee replaced a 13-member elected committee in January 1992, as the result of a Nov. 1991 referendum. In a Nov. 1996 referendum, voters chose to retain the appointed committee rather than return to the 13-member elected committee.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

About 11,450 students with disabilities (20% of total) are enrolled in special education programs, including:

- 5,500 students with mild to moderate disabilities
- 5,110 students with more severe disabilities who attend special BPS schools and programs
- 470 students with severe disabilities who attend private day and residential schools
- 370 students, ages 3-4, in Early Childhood programs

In addition, about 510 students enrolled in non-BPS schools receive some special education services in BPS schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND SUPPORT

About 10,150 students (17%) are "English language learners" (ELL) or "limited English proficient" (LEP): English is not their first language, and they are moving to meet the district's criteria of an English proficient student. All receive English language support from highly qualified teachers of English. Approximate ELL enrollment by program, grades 1-12, is:

Sheltered English Instruction (SEI)	8,860
Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE)	130
Two-way *	390
* Students whose first language is Spanish and whose first language is English learn together in both languages.	

The five most common home languages of students in formal ELL programs are:

Spanish	5,970
Haitian creole	980
Chinese	740
Cape Verdean creole	640
Vietnamese	520

BPS English language learners come from 114 different countries!

CLASS SIZE

Under the contract (9/1/03-8/31/06) between the BPS and the Boston Teachers Union, the maximum numbers of students per teacher in regular education classes are:

K1- Gr.2	Gr. 3-5	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 9-12
22	25	28	31

Many classes are smaller than this. The FY06 systemwide ratio of all students to all teachers is about 13 to 1.

HISTORY: FIRST IN AMERICA

- Boston Latin School: oldest school, 1635
- Mather: oldest elementary school, 1639
- BPS: first public school system, 1647
- English High: first public high school, 1821

SCHOOL CHOICE

Elementary and middle schools are organized in three geographic zones. Students can apply to schools in their zone of residence and to schools outside their zone of residence that are in their "walk zone."

School assignments are based on choice, certain priorities, and availability of seats. All high schools are citywide.

In 1999, the School Committee voted to drop race-based assignments, a policy that had been in place since 1974. The 1999 plan sets aside 50% of a school's seats for students living in the school's walk zone. Remaining seats are open to all applicants. In 2004, based on recommendations of a community task force, the School Committee voted to:

- maintain the current zone structure
- allow students to apply for schools outside their zone of residence but within their walk zone
- create more K-8 schools.

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

71% of the 3,030 graduates of the **Class of 2004** responded to a survey for the Boston Private Industry Council on post-high school activity. Here is what they said:

40%	are in school and not working
36%	are in school and working
15%	are working only
1%	are in the military
5%	are jobless but looking for work
3%	are jobless and not looking for work

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). On the 2005 statewide tests, the % of students who "passed" (performed at levels *Needs Improvement*, *Proficient* and *Advanced*) and % change from 2004 were:

Grade/Test	BPS	% ↑/↓	State %	↑/↓
3 Read	79%	↓3%	93%	↓1%
4 ELA	72%	↓5%	90%	↓1%
4 Math	68%	↓2%	85%	↓2%
6 Math	51%	↑4%	76%	↑1%
7 ELA	82%	↓3%	93%	N/C
8 Math	49%	↓4%	69%	↓2%
10 ELA	73%	↓4%	89%	↓1%

As of 10/05, 80% of the 4,146 members of the BPS Class of 2005 had passed MCAS in ELA and math.

SAT I. 59% of the BPS Class of 2005 took the 2005 SAT I. Comparative results:

	'04 Verbal	'05 Verbal	'04 Math	'05 Math
BPS	431	436	445	459
MA	518	520	523	527
US	508	508	518	520

Dropout Rates, Grades 9-12

% of students who dropped out in one year:	% of 9th graders who dropped out over five years:
SY03: 8.0%	1998/02 22.5%
SY04 8.4%	1999/03 21.1%

Source: BPS Office of Research, Assessment & Evaluation

BUDGET, SALARIES & PER PUPIL COSTS

FY06 General Fund: \$712,413,221*

Program	Budget	% of total
Instruction:	\$417,667,702	58.6%
Regular ed.	239,905,784	33.7%
Special ed.	145,535,028	20.4%
Bilingual ed./SEI	27,504,033	3.9%
Career & tech. ed.	4,139,201	0.6%
Adult ed.	325,908	0.0%
Summer session	257,748	0.0%
Support Services:	\$294,745,519	41.4%
Employee benefits	96,382,562	13.5%
Transportation	67,775,400	9.5%
Physical plant	62,917,487	8.8%
Student/school support services	46,621,278	6.5%
General admin.	16,827,840	2.4%
Safety	4,220,952	0.6%

* Approved budget as of 3/23/05. Does not include supplemental appropriations approved after that date.

FY06 External Funds (est.): \$139,959,146

Includes **formula** grants (e.g. No Child Left Behind), **reimbursement** grants (National School Lunch, Impact Aid), and **competitive** grants (e.g. National Science Foundation).

FY06 Average Salaries:

Teachers (reg. ed.)♦	\$70,215
Elementary school principals▲	\$93,999
Middle school principals▲	\$96,684
High school headmasters▲	\$103,767
Central administrators	\$104,605
Custodians	\$40,475
Secretaries/clerical staff	\$39,843
School police officer	\$42,051
Nurses	\$74,304
Substitute teachers <i>per diem</i>	\$108

♦ Range: \$41,521 to \$80,092

▲ Base salary; does not include career awards, degrees, or enrollment factors.

FY05 Per Pupil Expenditure (% change from FY04):

Regular ed.	Bilingual ed.	Mod sped (.3)	Sub sep sped (.4)	Private sped (.5)
\$9,232 (+10%)	\$10,746 (+6%)	\$14,620 (+9%)	\$22,215 (+8%)	\$59,845 (-6%)

The average FY05 per pupil expenditure was about \$11,678 (+9%).

Source: BPS Budget Office, BPS Fiscal Year 2006 Budget